

with increasing rapidity, since each of these multi-form changes in environment acts as an incentive towards further change. But in tracing the origin of this revolution we must avoid the danger of mistaking a condition for a cause. The complexity of modern life has afforded energetic and industrious peoples opportunities for developing the resources of their disposition. But the possession of energy and industry is essential. During the last half century the conditions of India have been revolutionized by the construction of railways and the diffusion of education. Yet the general effect upon the outlook of the people has been disappointingly small. However forcibly advertised in the environment, the material ideals of Europe do not impress Asia, where leisure is preferred to industry, and men show their appreciation of wealth by burying it in the ground.

In human society the reproductive impulses are very closely controlled by fashions, moral rules and ambitions that conflict with them, and it is exceedingly difficult to determine whether variations in the birth-rate result from changes in reproductive fertility or from various artificial causes. Its very great fall amongst the peoples of Western Europe, and of the Anglo-Saxon colonies, may be due to the postponement of marriage until long after the age that is indicated by the arrival of puberty, or to the

voluntary limitation of families. But it is an accepted fact that luxury in diet diminishes fertility. Indeed, under-feeding appears to stimulate it: an Indian famine is followed by a very extraordinary rise in the birth-rate, amounting not infrequently to a third above the normal. Families run large amongst the thrifty Scotch, and the extraordinary fecun-